THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) Electrification of railway track is a need based exercise which is reviewed on a continuous basis. Investment on Railway Electrification is primarily based on the traffic requirement of the system and those sections which are considered necessary, are taken up for electrification.

At present, there is no perspective plan for electrification towards Assam in North-East Region.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of above.

Creation of new tiger reserves

†*519. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures being taken by Government for saving tigers which are fast disappearing from tiger reserves;

(b) whether Government are considering any proposal to create new tiger reserves; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) There is no evidence to draw a general conclusion that tigers are fast disappearing from 28 Tiger Reserves in the country except in case of Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan where there has not been any sighting of the animal during last few months. The measures taken by the Government of India for tiger conservation are given in Statement I (See below).

(b) and (c) Starting with nine in 1973-74, the number of Tiger Reserves in the country has risen to 28 by 1999-2000. The Steering Committee of the Project Tiger, in its 37th meeting held on 23-01-2003, has recommended creation of eight new the list Tiger Reserves in given Statement -II (*See* below) Action has been initiated on the proposals received from the states concerned to obtain the approval of the Central Government.

Further the Steering Committee of the Project Tiger, in its last 38th meeting held on 12-04-2005, has not favoured creation of new Tiger

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Reserves. The consensus was for the consolidation of existing reserves as per norms.

Statement-I

Measures for Tiger Conservation

1. Ongoing Funding Schemes:

Funding and technical help are provided to states under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of "Project Tiger", "Assistance to National Parks & Sanctuaries" and "Project Elephant" for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of states to provide effective protection to wild animals including tiger.

2. Legal Measures Taken:

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which has been amended and made more stringent.

(ii) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

3. Administrative and other Measures:

(i) A National Wildlife Action Plan (2002—16) has been adopted by the Indian Board for Wildlife under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister in January 2002, which outlines the strategy for conservation and protection of wildlife in the country.

(ii) Government of India has set-up regional and subregional offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centers of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

4. International Conventions:

India is signatory to many international conventions relating to biodiversity conservation and control of illegal trade in wild flora and fauna.

5. Bilateral Agreements:

India has bilateral agreements with Nepal and China for controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife.

6. Global Tiger Forum:

A Global Tiger Forum of tiger range countries has been created for addressing international issues relating to tiger conservation.

7. Initiatives Taken for eliciting public support:

- Complementary inputs for Eco-development and voluntary village relocation provided earlier in separate projects have now been merged with Project Tiger as an "Umbrella Scheme".
- Under the externally aided "India Eco-development Project", as many as 572 eco-developrnent committees have been formed in seven Protected Areas (whcih included six Tiger Reserves) covering 75,600 families, to educe the dependency of local people on Protected Area resources, with reciprocal commitments. An amount of Rs. 15,692.30 lakhs has been provided to States for 6 Tiger Reserves till the completion of this Project in 2004.

8. Constitution of Task Force:

A five member Task Force has been constituted for reviewing the management of Tiger Reserves and to make various measures for improvement.

9. Other Initiative Taken:

- Eight more potential sites have been identified for Project Tiger coverage.
- "Project Allowance" has been provided under the scheme to field staff working in tiger reserves.
- Regional Monitoring of Tiger Reserves has been undertaken by a group of experts as per the normative standards of the Ministry.
- 100% Central Assistance is provided for deploying anti-poaching strike squads in Tiger Reserves, apart from expenditure relating to research, veterinary, monitoring and evaluation, compensation to the legal heir of staff/person killed while performing duty, and for monitoring of tiger population.
- Information and communication technology is under use for linking important tiger reserves in the GIS Domain for evolving a management

support system and crime detection, dissemination of information through web and evolving a 'National Tiger Monitoring and Habitat Evaluation System' with regional protocols.

- The allocation under Project Tiger has been enhanced from Rs. 7500 lakhs in the IX Plan to Rs. 15,0000 lakhs in the X Plan.
- Country level appraisal of habitat fragmentation has been done to facilitate restorative inputs.

Statement-II

List of the proposed new Tiger Reserves

Sl. No.	Name of the proposed new Tiger Reserve	State
1.	Anamalai-Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu & Kerala
2.	Udanti and Sita Nadi Wildlife Sanctuaries	Chhattisgarh
3.	Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary	Orissa
4.	Kaziranga National Park	Assam
5.	Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary	Chhattisgarh
6.	Dandeli-Anshi Sanctuary	Karnataka
7.	Sanjay National Park and Sanjay Dubri Wildlife Sanctuary	Madhya Pradesh
8.	Mudumalai Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu

Strike of chemists in Delhi

*520. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether chemists in Delhi who are supplying indented medicines to CGHS Delhi have again gone on strike in February last;

(b) whether Government have investigated as to why these chemists are forced to go on strike quite often causing hardship to CGHS beneficiaries,